

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-3 and add new claims 4 and 5, as set forth below.

Claims 1-3 (cancelled):

Claim 4 (newly submitted): A misconnection-proof connector comprising a plurality of misconnection-proof keys each having a substantially L-shaped block made of a hard metal including a short arm and a long arm intersecting therewith at right angles thereto and having at a substantially mid portion on its surface a removal-preventing protrusion integrally formed therewith, and said connector comprising an insulating block having a number of contacts, and a metal shell partly covering the insulating block on its end where contact portions of said contacts are located, wherein said connector further comprising a plurality of slots being formed at predetermined positions between said metal shell and said end of the insulating block, and removal-preventing means respectively being formed in said plurality of slots such that when said long arms of said misconnection-proof keys are inserted into said slots until the removal-preventing protrusions of said keys are fitted in said removal-preventing means, respectively, and said short arms of said keys are extending outwardly from said slots, respectively, thereby preventing said connector from being connected to a mating connector not having notches corresponding to said outwardly extending short arms of said keys and number of misconnection-proof keys used on the connector is less than the number of said slots so that by selecting inserting positions of the misconnection-proof keys in said slots, a plural number of combination connection for the connectors with the mating connectors to be inserted can be obtained and the number of said combinations can be varied by changing the insertion positions of said misconnection-proof keys.

Claim 5 (newly submitted): The misconnection-proof connector as set forth in claim 4 wherein said plurality of slots comprises four slots and said plurality of misconnection-proof keys comprises three keys.